Committee in 1997. The Committee made 31 recommendations in all which were examined by an Empowered Committee, constituted by the Ministry. The Empowered Committee recommended acceptance of 26 recommendations and of these, action for implementation of 18 recommendations have already been taken. The remaining recommendations mainly pertain to fiscal and financial incentives to shipping industry and presently the following proposals are being pured in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

(i) Tax relief to Indian seafarers.
(ii) Infrastructure status to Coastal Shipping.

Introduction of Tonnage Tax in lieu of Corporate Tax. There is no proposal to formulate a National Policy on Shipbuilding. However, an Apex Committee on Shipbuilding constituted by the Government has submitted its report. The recommendations made by the Committee have been examined and appropriate action initiated.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Illegal Training of Fake Drugs

*535. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantities of fake inhalers, vapour and other bogus drugs and pharmaceuticals find their way to market by way of illegal trading;

(b) whether they are likely to cause health hazards; and

(c) the action taken to effectively deal with the growing menance of fake drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No specific complaints regarding fake inhalers, vaporous and other allied drug formulations which are traded in the market have been reported. Most of these products are being manufactured as Ayurvedic drugs and which do not required a sale license. There are

a number of products in the market which have similarity with brand leaders in the market, in terms of packaging as well as phonitic similarity in names. However, manufacture for sale of these products cannot be treated as illegal in terms of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act & Rules.

Since these preparations are mainly non-prescription items, are used as external application for rendering symptomatic relief and contain ingredients like menthol, camphur (karpur), thymol, turpentine, turpentine oil, nutmeg oil, pudina ka phool etc., they are not expected to cause any health hazards.

Enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act & Rules thereof is done by the State Drug Control Authorities. The Drug Controller (India) has advised the State Drug Controllers to take the following measures for curbing the incidence of fake drugs:

(a) Constitution/reactivation of State Drug Advisory Committees.

(b) Establishment of separate intelligence-cum-legal machinery with policy assistance.

(c) Surveillance of suspected dealers.

(d) Engaging experienced counsel for fighting spurious drug cases.

(e) Cooperation of Pharmaceutical Industry by regular interation with them.

(f) Collection of Survey sample under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drug (NSQED) programme.

Production of Steel

†*536. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the production of steel in the country during the last three years, year-wise

(b) whether it is a fact that the production of steel in the country has decreased in comparison to its requirement;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.